



NEWS RELEASE



BLANCHFIELD ARMY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Blanchfield Administers Flu Vaccine

FT. CAMPBELL, Ky. – Blanchfield Army Community Hospital (BACH) is now prepared to administer the influenza (flu) vaccine to local beneficiaries. Hospital staff members will determine whether the nasal spray or shot form of the vaccine is appropriate for each patient based on their age and medical history.

“Getting vaccinated provides the best protection against the flu and keeps you from spreading this severe illness to your family, friends and coworkers,” said Anke. People can also avoid getting or spreading the flu virus by washing their hands regularly and covering their cough or sneeze with a tissue or their sleeve, instead of into their hands.

Patients Assigned to BACH

Patients assigned to a primary care provider at BACH may receive the flu vaccine within their assigned clinic Monday through Friday on a walk-in basis during the hours listed below. No appointment is necessary, however patients may ask for the vaccine during a regularly scheduled appointment.

Patients Assigned to Provider Outside of BACH

Patients assigned to a network primary care provider (off post) should ask to receive the flu vaccine from their assigned provider. If your assigned healthcare provider does not offer the flu vaccine, patients 24 months and older may receive the vaccine in BACH’s Immunization Clinic on a walk-in basis Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the hours listed below. Parents with a child under the age of 24 months may contact the Young Eagle Clinic at (931) 431-4677 to speak with an Advice Nurse for more information.

Annual Vaccination Important

“It is important to get vaccinated every year because flu viruses are constantly changing,” said Chief of Preventive Medicine Lt. Col. Kirsten Anke. Each year scientists try to match the viruses in the vaccine to those most likely to cause flu that year. The 2010-2011 vaccine helps protect against A/H1N1 (pandemic) influenza as well as A/H3N2 and influenza B.

“Last year, everyone needed two separate vaccines to help protect against the H1N1 virus and the seasonal flu virus. This year’s vaccine will help protect against both H1N1 and seasonal flu viruses,” said Anke.

Some children 6 months to 8 years old may be advised to receive two doses of the flu vaccine, at least four weeks apart. A healthcare provider can help you determine if your child requires a second dose.

About the Flu

The flu virus attacks the lungs and can cause body aches, sore throat, coughing, headache, fever and nasal congestion or drainage. For a more complete list of flu symptoms, please visit the Center for Disease Control online at www.cdc.gov.

The flu itself is not usually dangerous, but its complications can be. For some people it can be very serious and even fatal. The people who may suffer the most serious effects are young children, the elderly and people who currently have health problems.

The flu virus can be in the body’s system before symptoms begin. This means people who do not feel sick can easily spread the virus to others. According to the Center for Disease Control, people can spread the flu to others up to one week after becoming ill themselves. Children may be able to spread the virus even longer.

BACH administered the first shipments of the flu vaccine to deployable active duty Soldiers and the high risk population. The high risk population includes healthcare workers, young children, caregivers of children 6 months or younger, pregnant women and individuals who have chronic health conditions or are 50 years of age and older.

Walk-in Flu Vaccine Availability Hours

Blue Clinic: 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

White Clinic (located in LaPointe Health Clinic): 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Young Eagle: 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Gold Clinic: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Immunization Clinic: Monday and Wednesday from 7:30 to 11 a.m. and 12:30 to 4 p.m. and Friday from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

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